REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the Final Office Action dated March 5, 2003. Currently, claims 1-42 are pending with claims 1, 13, and 22 being independent. Claims 31-43 are added. Claims 1, 4, 12, 13, 21-23, and 30 are amended. The support for the amendment of the above claims is found in the specification on page 4, line 6 to page 5, line 5, as well as throughout the specification.

The support for added claims 31-43 is found in the specification on page 6, line 8 to page 7, line 2 and also on page 8, lines 14-35, as well as throughout the specification.

In the Final Office Action, dated March 5, 2003, the Examiner maintained his rejections of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,301,339 to Staples *et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons set forth below.

The Applicants respectfully submit this Amendment and Response as part of the Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 in response to the Final Office Action, dated March 5, 2003.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Final Office Action, dated March 5, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,301,339 to Staples *et al.* (hereinafter "Staples"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the Examiner, Staples teaches and describes system and method, which provides connectivity between one or more remote users and a corporate office. However, Staples does not teach or describe a method for communicating with a watched party over a

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multiple access network according to the amended claim 1. More specifically, Staples does not describe a step of storing a plurality of contact addresses for said watched party in a common location which is accessible via said multiple access network, a step of receiving a request to contact said watched party, wherein said request includes said contact identifier, a step of determining that said watched party is accessible by said at least one device based upon a set of watched party defined contact rules, and a step of contacting said watched party via said at least one device if based upon said set of watched party contact rules said watched party is accessible via said at least one device.

In the March 5, 2003 Final Office Action, the Examiner stated that Col. 3, lines 1-12 and Col. 20, lines 49-62 of Staples disclose steps of storing a plurality of contact addresses for said watched party in a common location which is accessible via said multiple access network and receiving a request to contact said watched party, wherein said request includes said contact identifier of the amended claim 1. (See, Final Office Action, page 4, paragraph 3). However, the Examiner cited sections describe corporate PBX or LAN networks capable of forwarding calls, emails or faxes to a remote user. (See, Col. 3, line 1-12 and col. 20 line 49-62.) The sections do not describe storing a plurality of contact addresses for the watched party nor do they described receiving a request to contact the remote party that includes a contact identifier. Moreover, even under the broad interpretation of the amended claim 1, storing a plurality of addresses for the watched party or receiving a request to contact the watched party is not the same as providing an identification information or a security information. Therefore, the above referenced steps of storing and receiving recited by the amended claim 1 are not described by Staples.

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In the March 5, 2003 Final Office Action, the Examiner stated that Col. 35, line 45 to Col. 36, line 11 of Staples anticipate the step of determining that said watched party is accessible by said at least one device based upon a set of watched party defined contact rules of the amended claim 1. (See, Final Office Action, page 4-5, paragraph 3). However, in the cited section, Staples describes a remote user being connected to a virtual corporate office upon receipt of a caller ID information and matching that caller ID information to the database stored in the virtual corporate office database. It is respectfully submitted, that receipt of the caller ID information of the remote user is not similar to the determining that the watched party is accessible based on a set of the watched party's defined contact rules, as recited in the amended claim 1. As described by Staples, caller ID information is received from a Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) and not set by the corporate office or the remote user (See, Col. 35, line 45 to Col. 36, line 11). This is different from the watched party setting its own defined contact rules, as recited by the amended claim 1. Therefore, the above referenced determining step is not anticipated by Staples.

In the March 5, 2003 Final Office Action, the Examiner stated that Col. 35, line 45 to Col. 36, Line 11 of Staples describe a step of contacting said watched party via said at least one device if based upon said set of watched defined contact rules said watched party is accessible via said at least one device of amended claim 1. (See, Final Office Action, page 4-5, paragraph 3). Similarly to the reasons presented above, the above referenced contacting step is not described by the Examiner's recited Staples sections. As the amended claim 1 recites, the watched party is contacted based on the watched party's defined contact rules and whether based on these rules the watched party is accessible. This is different from Staples, where the caller ID

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information received from PSTN by the virtual corporate office. According to the amended claim 1, the watched party defines its contact rules upon examination of which, it is determined whether it is accessible or not. Clearly, this is not the same as receiving the caller ID information from the PSTN. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the above referenced contacting step of the amended claim 1 is not described by Staples.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Staples does not anticipate amended claim 1 in light of the reasons presented above. The Applicants submit that this rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claim 1.
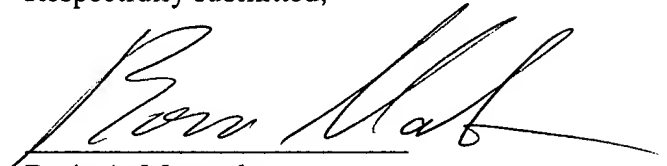
Amended claims 13 and 22 are not anticipated for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of the amended claims 13 and 22 is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claims 13 and 22.

Claims 2-12, 14-21, and 23-30 (including the amended claims 4, 12, 21, 23, and 30) are dependent on the respective amended claims 1, 13, and 22. Therefore, these claims are not anticipated for at least the reasons presented above with respect to the amended claims 1, 13, and 22. Thus, the rejection of claims 2-12, 14-21, and 23-30 is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claims 2-12, 14-21, and 23-30 (including the amended claims 4, 12, 21, 23, and 30).

No new matter has been added.

The claims currently presented are proper and definite. Allowance is accordingly in order and respectfully requested. However, should the Examiner deem that further clarification of the record is in order, we invite a telephone call to the Applicants' undersigned attorney to expedite further processing of the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Please add claims 31-43.

Please amend claims as follows:

1.(Amended)   A method of communicating with a watched party over a multiple access network comprising:

      providing said watched party with a contact identifier;

      storing a plurality of contact addresses for said watched party in a common location which is accessible via said multiple access network;

      receiving a request to contact said watched party, wherein said request includes said contact identifier;

      determining that said watched party has access to said multiple access network via at least one device;

      determining that said watched party is accessible by said at least one device based upon a set of watched party defined <u>contact</u> rules; and,

      contacting said watched party via said at least one device if based upon said set of watched party defined <u>contact</u> rules said watched party is accessible via said at least one device.

4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

      determining that said watched party is accessible via a plurality of devices;

      contacting said watched party via at least one of said plurality of devices based upon said set of watched party defined <u>contact</u> rules.

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12. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

controlling access to said determination that said watched party has access to said multiple access network via said at least one device based upon said watched party defined contact rules.

13. (Amended) A system for communicating with a watched party over a multiple access network comprising:

a processor coupled to said multiple access network;

wherein said processor is configured to store contact information for contacting said watched party via a plurality of access networks;

at least one watched party defined contact rule stored in said processor;

a plurality of gateways coupled between said processor and said plurality of access networks;

wherein said plurality of gateways are configured to provide said processor with information pertaining to a presence of said watched party on said plurality of access networks; and,

wherein said processor is configured to provide a watching party with at least a subset of said contact information based upon said at least one watched party defined contact rule.

21. (Amended) The system according to Claim 13 wherein said processor is configured to limit access to a watching party to at least one set of contact information based upon said at least one watched party defined <u>contact</u> rule.

22. (Amended) A system for communicating with a watched party over a multiple access network comprising:

processor means coupled to said multiple access network, for storing contact information for contacting said watched party via a plurality of access networks;

at least one watched party defined <u>contact</u> rule stored in said processor means;

gateway means coupled between said processor means and said plurality of access networks for providing said processor with information pertaining to a presence of said watched party on said plurality of access networks; and,

wherein said processor means is further configured to provide a watching party with at least a subset of said contact information based upon said at least one watched party defined <u>contact</u> rule.

23. (Amended) The system according to Claim 22 further comprising:

a plurality of watched party defined <u>contact</u> rules stored in said processor means.

30. (Amended) The system according to Claim 22 wherein said processor means is configured to limit access to a watching party to at least one set of contact information based upon said at least one watched party defined <u>contact</u> rule.